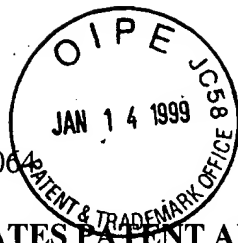


Attorney's Docket No.: 81862.P064



Patent

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W. L. Lauer
2/5/99

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)

Robert A. Land et al.)

Application No. 08/684,130)

Filing Date: July 19, 1996)

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING)
MULTIPLE MANAGEMENT INTERFACES TO A)
NETWORK DEVICE)

Examiner: Sax, S.

Art Unit: 2773

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of September 15, 1998, reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Notwithstanding the comments contained in the Office Action, it is respectfully submitted that the present claims are patentable over Scholl et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,742,762 ("Scholl"). The reasons for such patentability are discussed further below; however, before setting forth those reasons in detail, it is interesting to note that a similar conclusion of patentability was reached by the United

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on January 8, 1999

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Patricia A. Balero

Name of Person Mailing Correspondence


Signature

01/08/99

Date

States Patent Office acting as the International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) with respect to international application No. PCT/US97/11968. This international application corresponds to the present application and an international preliminary examination report therefor was issued on October 15, 1998. A copy of that report is included herewith. In the reasoned statement supporting patentability, and in light of the Scholl reference, the International Preliminary Examination Authority has determined that the present claims are patentable because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a network device with a multi-layer management interface with plural interface layers configured to receive and send different sets of messages according to corresponding protocols of the message set sources in the manner recited in present claims.

Scholl describes a scheme for managing networks wherein a network management gateway provides an interface between web servers (and their associated web clients) and managed networks. In the scheme, the gateway receives requests from web clients as forwarded by web servers and interacts with the managed networks and their associated objects to obtain information. That information is converted to a hypermedia document format according to the hypertext transfer protocol and is then transmitted to the web clients via the web server. See, e.g., Scholl at col. 6, ll.4-31.

In contrast to the scheme recited in the present claims, however, Scholl does not teach or suggest a multi-layer management interface which is configured to receive different sets of messages according to different protocols from different sources. For example, with respect to claim 1, Scholl does not teach or suggest the second layer interface configured to receive a third set of messages from a second set of sources according to a second protocol, wherein the second set of sources includes a first interface layer and the third set of message includes at least one message of a second set of messages as set forth in the claim. Although the Office Action sets forth broad assertions